

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF OLDER READERS

Your child is now independent. At this stage, many parents take a hands-off approach to their child's reading and writing development, but you can still enjoy sharing good books together.

Here are five tips to help you encourage your independent reader.

1) CREATE A THINKING AND SHARING ENVIRONMENT

- Reading for pleasure is the key to remaining a motivated reader. If your child doesn't like a particular book, discuss the reasons why and help your child find books they will love.
- Reading is a social act and your child will enjoy talking about books with you. Read the same book occasionally, and talk about key events in the story, the characters and the author's style.
- Being a student is your child's job. Children find it helpful to talk about what is going well, what can be improved, and what help and support they need to do their jobs. Listen and seek solutions together.

2) READ A VARIETY OF BOOKS

- Your child might be a mystery fan, into horror serials, or even comic books. Having a favourite genre is great, but be sure to continue to expose your child to different types of books.
- Children love to hear stories and poetry read aloud, and reading aloud increases your child's listening comprehension and vocabulary. Read aloud together.

3) READ PURPOSEFULLY

- Make sure your child has access to appropriate reference materials and knows how to use dictionaries, encyclopedias and the thesaurus.
- Children love to know that their opinions are valued. Read current-event newspaper articles and discuss your child's point of view and opinions. Follow a breaking story over the course of a few days.

4) SUPPORT THE READING AND STUDYING HABIT

- Give your child access to a wealth of reading material—library books, newspapers and magazines.
- Help your child schedule time for reading.

5) MAKE THE READING/WRITING CONNECTION

- Encourage your child to write a memoir—a story of their life up to now.
- Keep writing materials and resources around the house.
- Make writing a habit—it is just as important as making reading a habit.

